

Message Text

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ACTION OC-05

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R 191530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7513

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3345

ACCRA ATTN: RCO

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/82

TAGS: ASEC, ACOM, AFSP

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS

1. SINCE OCTOBER 1975 THE AMERICAN/EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN KINSHASA HAS EXPERIENCED A VERY SERIOUS CRIME/VIOLENCE PROBLEM. THIS IS AN ONGOING HAZARD AND THE MISSION HAS APPRECIATED THE PROMPT REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. MOST MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE TELEPHONES, BUT THEY ARE NOT DEPENDABLE. MANY MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE NOT HAD TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR PERIODS RANGING FROM A FEW DAYS UP TO EIGHT(8) MONTHS. THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BETTER SERVICE FROM THE LOCAL PTT HAVE FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES BEEN TO NO AVAIL.

2. T D

YB AND CEO RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF THE EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AND DETERMINED THE EMBASSY REQUIRES 37 ADDITIONAL PORTOMOBILE RADIOS TO HAVE DEPENDABLE, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY BASE STATION, ROVING SENTINEL PATROLS, THE RESIDENCES AND APARTMENTS. AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS NET, GIVEN THE INADEQUACY OF THE TELEPHONES IS ESSENTIAL, IF WE ARE TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY AND/OR LOSS OF

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PROPERTY TO MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY. THE

INCREASE WOULD ALSO BE AN ASSET TO TH EMBASSY'S E&E NET.

3. UNFORTUNATELY THE EMBASSY'S CURRENT E&E COMMUNICATIONS NET IS NOT ADEQUATE. THE RESIDENCES OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISPERSED OVER A WIDE AREA WITH A MAJORITY OF THE RESIDENCES BEING BETWEEN 10-18 MILES FROM THE EMBASSY BASE STATION. THE TERRAIN BETWEEN THE BASE STATION AND THE MOBILE UNITS IS SUCH THAT THE BASE STATION CANNOT REACH THE PORTOMOBILE UNITS OUT OF DIRECT LINE OF SITE AND TO ERECT ADEQUATE ANTENNAS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE. THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY REQUIRES A RADIO REPATER STATION.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FILL THIS URGENT NEED FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.
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